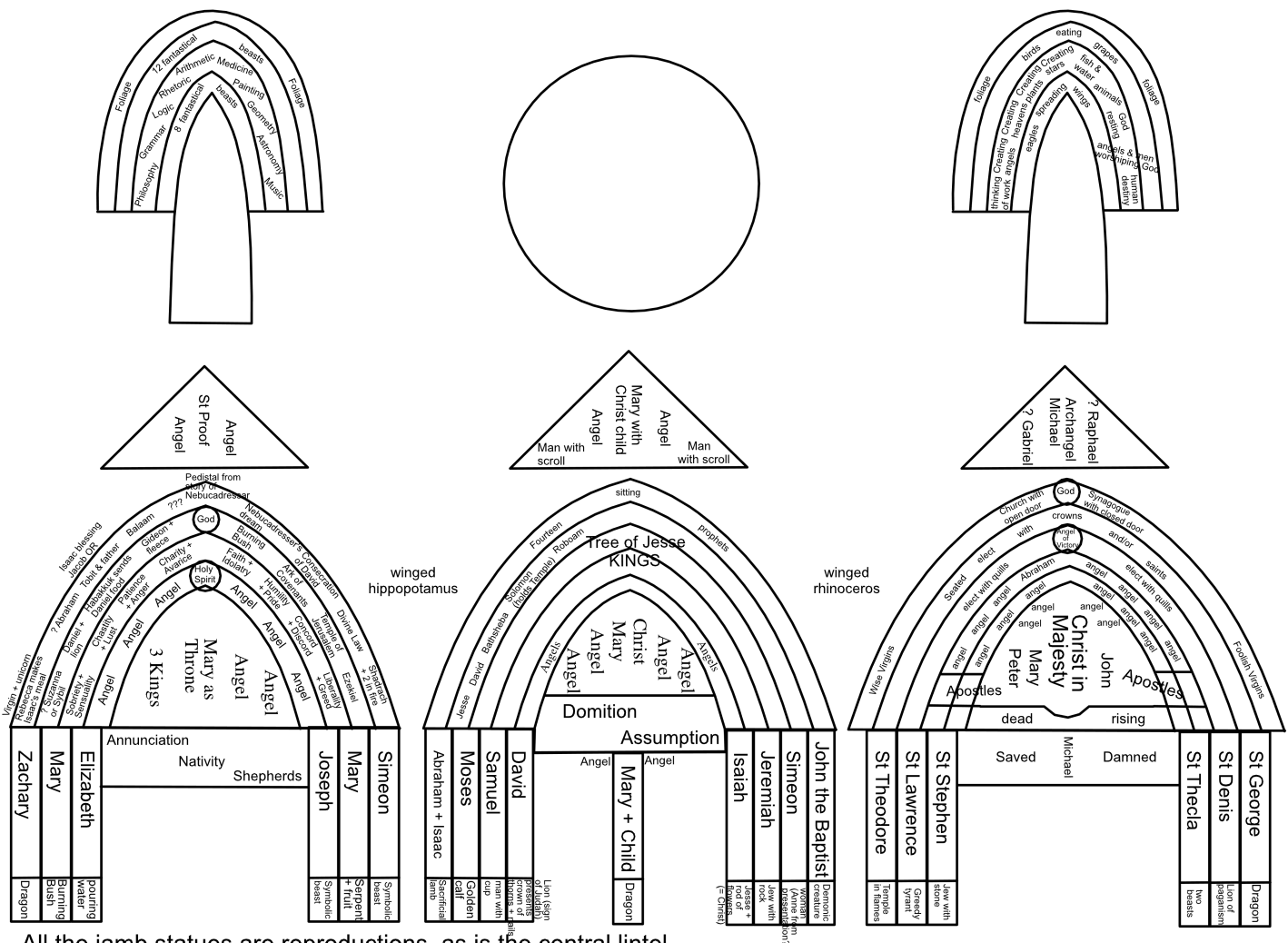


Notre-Dame de Laon Cathedral West Facade

Jessica Strider, 2015

- Laon diocese established by archbishop Remigius of Reims at end of 5th C
- 1112 merchants and bourgeoisie had communal charter that Bishop Gaudry revoked
- April 25 Easter Insurrection: the commune revolted, murdering the bishop & burning down the church
- clergy toured with relics to raise money for rebuilding, consecrated new church 1114
- Anselm of Laon's school of theology & exegesis attracted talent and city prospered
- 1130 communal charter reestablished
- 1160 current building began construction in the choir
- West facade begun in the 1190s
- 1205-1220 the choir was replaced with larger square end
- Cathedral basically completed by 1225
- deep set rose window was the first one created after that of St. Denis
- lots of fanciful statuary between the architectural features & accenting the features
- was supposed to have 7 towers but only 5 completed
- 8 oxen statues in each tower in tribute to the ones that pulled stone up the hill to the building site; legend has it that the oxen appeared when they were needed and disappeared when the work was done
- the towers have 2 sets of porticoes on top of each other at the corners; lower square, upper hexagonal
- East facade can be seen by entering the courtyard of the old Bishop's Palace to the South West



- All the jamb statues are reproductions, as is the central lintel

- Tympani & Archivolts are original

South Transept - has some figure sculpture, not medieval

North Transept - no sculpture on doors but around the corner from the West Facade is a small door with some broken tympanum sculpture, lower row may depict martyrdom & upper his escort to Heaven

Sources:

Cook, William. "Early Gothic Style - Laon" *The Cathedral*, The Great Courses, 2010.

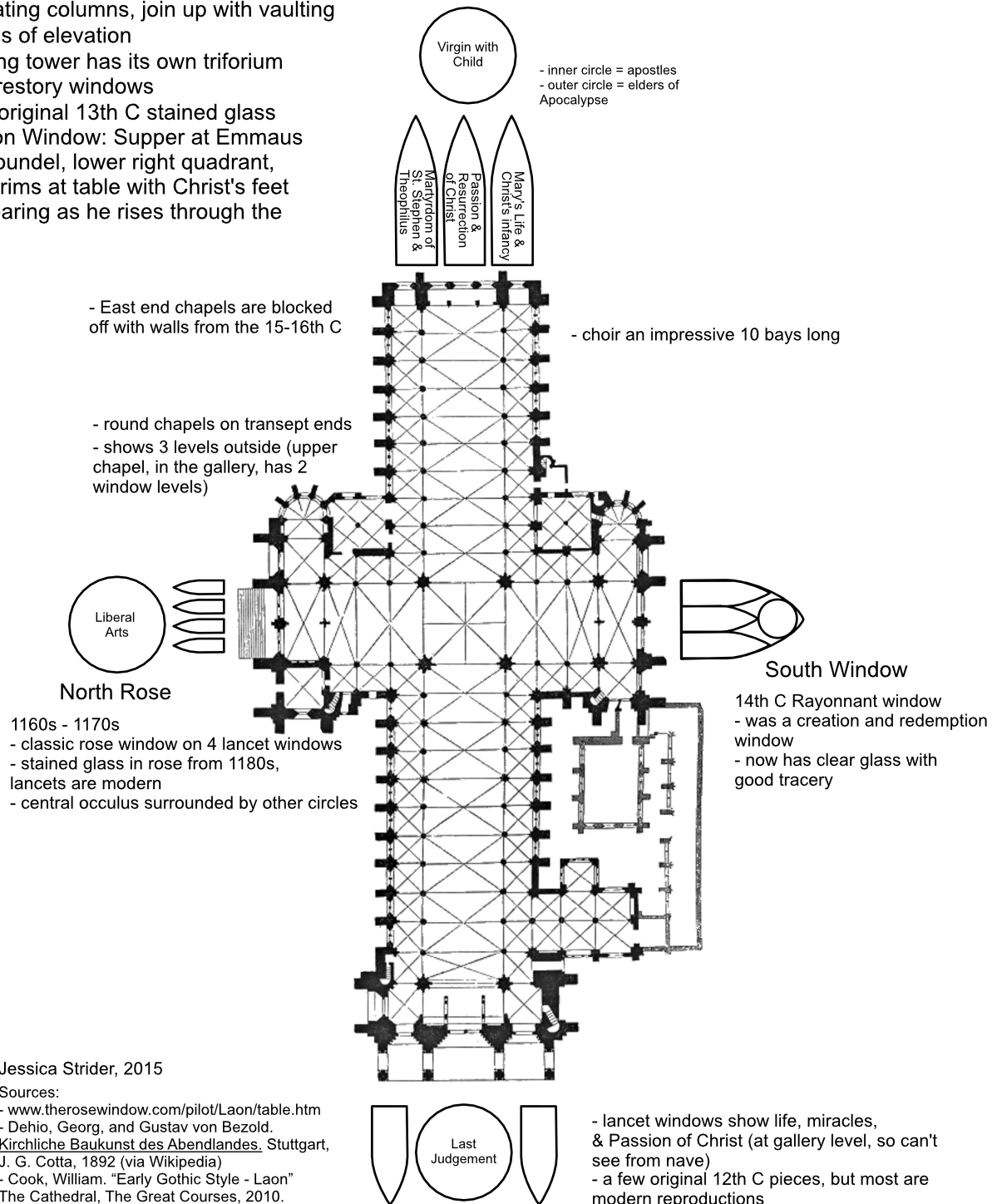
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laon_Cathedral

Sculptural program from: Bouxin, Auguste. *La Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Laon*. Impr. Du Journal d'Aisne, 1902.

[NOTE: this is a French text and while I used detailed photos of the monument to adjust these notes, there may still be errors]

Notre-Dame de Laon Cathedral

- one of Charlemagne & his descendants' favourite places
- can sometimes arrange to see 2nd story (gallery) at Tourist Information Office next door
- originally had a round East end (built 1180s) but quickly replaced it with the current square one (after 1205)
- has 32 chapels
- 111 meters long in total, 40 m high at the lantern; nave = 53m long, transept = 12 m
- Laon was a serious intellectual centre before Paris (hence liberal arts depiction, etc)
- alternating columns, join up with vaulting
- 4 levels of elevation
- crossing tower has its own triforium and clerestory windows
- some original 13th C stained glass
- Passion Window: Supper at Emmaus upper roundel, lower right quadrant, see pilgrims at table with Christ's feet disappearing as he rises through the floor



Jessica Strider, 2015

Sources:

- www.therosewindow.com/pilot/Laon/table.htm
- Dehio, Georg, and Gustav von Bezold. *Kirchliche Baukunst des Abendlandes*. Stuttgart, J. G. Cotta, 1892 (via Wikipedia)
- Cook, William. "Early Gothic Style - Laon" *The Cathedral, The Great Courses*, 2010.